

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (ORIGINAL) A process for synthesizing a particulate copolymer comprising: providing a reaction mixture comprising a reaction medium, a polymerization stabilizer, a water-insoluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer and an ethylenically unsaturated monomer containing hydrophilic functionality, said reaction mixture having a viscosity value of at least 10 cps measured at 40°C, and polymerizing the water-insoluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer and the ethylenically unsaturated monomer containing hydrophilic functionality.
 2. (ORIGINAL) A process for synthesizing a particulate copolymer as in claim 1, wherein said reaction mixture has a viscosity of at least 25 cps measured at 40 °C.
 3. (ORIGINAL) A process for synthesizing a particulate copolymer as in claim 1, wherein said reaction medium comprises a mixture of water and at least one aliphatic alcohol having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms.
 4. (ORIGINAL) A process for synthesizing a particulate copolymer as in claim 1, wherein the reaction medium comprises a water/alcohol mixture in a weight ratio from 1:1 to 3:1.
 5. (ORIGINAL) A process for synthesizing a particulate copolymer as in claim 1, wherein the polymerization stabilizer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyridine, poly-N-vinylimidazole, polyethyleneimine, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinylalcohol, acid-processed gelatin and alkali-processed gelatin.
 6. (ORIGINAL) A process for synthesizing a particulate copolymer as in claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer is selected from the group consisting of methylacrylate, methylmethacrylate, ethylacrylate, ethylmethacrylate, butylmethacrylate and butylacrylate.